

law, including through internationally recognized legal dispute settlement mechanisms, and urges the full implementation of any decisions rendered by the relevant courts and tribunals which are binding on them;

Whereas the South China Sea potentially contains great natural resources, and their stewardship and responsible use offers immense potential benefit for generations to come;

Whereas Brunei, Malaysia, China, Taiwan, Vietnam, and the Philippines have overlapping territorial, sovereignty, and jurisdictional claim to all or some of the Spratly Islands;

Whereas, on January 23, 2013, the Philippines launched an arbitration process under an existing international mechanism challenging China's claim of a 'nine dash line' around the South China Sea;

Whereas, although the United States does not take a position on competing territorial claims over land features and maritime boundaries of the Spratly Islands, it does have a strong and long-standing interest in the manner in which disputes in the South China Sea are addressed and in the conduct of the parties;

Whereas, even while the Government of the People's Republic of China has refused to participate in formal arbitration with the Government of the Philippines, it should comply with any international ruling on competing territorial claims with the Philippines in the South China Sea;

Whereas, in recent years, the Government of the People's Republic of China has engaged in unilateral land reclamation and construction activities in the Spratly Islands that undermines regional stability and is counter to multilateral efforts for peaceful resolution of territorial, sovereignty, and jurisdictional disputes in the South China Sea;

Whereas, although other claimants to the Spratly Islands have built small outposts and have engaged in minor maintenance on features they already occupy, in less than one year the Government of the People's Republic of China has rapidly exceeded all preceding activities and acted on a much larger scale;

Whereas, on November 4, 2002, the governments of the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Government of the People's Republic of China signed a Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea that, among other things, declared, "The Parties undertake to exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability including, among others, refraining from action of inhabiting on the presently uninhabited islands, reefs, shoals, cays, and other features and to handle their differences in a constructive manner.";

Whereas China's land reclamation is estimated to cost the region's littoral states \$100,000,000 a year due to damage to the ecosystem and the degradation of fish stocks;

Whereas, on March 23, 2015, satellite imagery showed the Government of the People's Republic of China building a concrete runway on the Fiery Cross Reef that is expected to be 10,000 feet long and give the Chinese military the capability to land fighter jets and surveillance jets, which is destabilizing to regional peace and stability;

Whereas satellite imagery also showed the Government of the People's Republic of China unilaterally constructing island territory on Subi Reef that, if connected, would support an additional airstrip;

Whereas satellite imagery also showed that Woody Island and Duncan Island have grown significantly due to Chinese land reclamation activities;

Whereas, a March 16, 2015, image published by the Center for Strategic and International Studies showed that the Government of the People's Republic of China constructed a chain of artificial land formations, new structures, fortified sea walls, and construction equipment along Mischief Reef, an area claimed by the Philippines and within its Exclusive Economic Zone;

Whereas, in April 2015, the United States Office of Naval Intelligence published a report on the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy showing that the Government of the People's Republic of China has reclaimed hundreds of acres of land at the seven features it occupies in the Spratly Islands throughout 2014 and stated that China "appears to be building much larger facilities that could support naval operations.";

Whereas, on April 6, 2015, Secretary of Defense Ash Carter noted deep concerns regarding some of the activities of the Government of the People's Republic of China, including "its behavior in places like the East and South China Seas.";

Whereas, on April 9, 2015, President Barack Obama stated, "Where [the United States gets] concerned with China is where it is not necessarily abiding by international norms and rules, and is using its size and muscle to force countries into subordinate positions. And that's the concern we have around maritime issues.";

Whereas, on April 16, 2015, the Commander of United States Pacific Command, Admiral Locklear, stated that Chinese land reclamation activities in the South China Sea "would give them de facto control in peacetime of much of the world's most important waterways"; that China could place "long-range detection radars" on the outposts in order to place more warships there; and that Southeast Asian nations are increasingly worried that China's new capabilities will allow it take de facto control of the surrounding waters;

Whereas adding a military dimension to the territorial dispute exacerbates the risks of misperceptions, accidents, and other dangerous incidents in the Spratly Islands;

Whereas, on April 9, 2015, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, Hua Chunying, was quoted as saying, "After the construction, the islands and reefs will be able to provide all-round and comprehensive services to meet various civilian demands besides satisfying the need of necessary military defense.";

Whereas ASEAN has promoted multilateral talks on disputed areas without settling the issue of sovereignty, and committed with China in the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea to "reaffirm their respect for and commitment to the freedom of navigation in and over flight above the South China Sea as provided for by the universally recognized principles of international law" and to "resolve their territorial and jurisdictional disputes by peaceful means, without resorting to the threat or use of force";

Whereas the reclamation activities of the Government of the People's Republic of China threaten ASEAN unity and its multilateral efforts to promote peaceful reconciliation of territorial, sovereignty, and jurisdictional disputes in the Spratly Islands and the broader South China Sea; and

Whereas, on January 28, 2015, Philippine Foreign Secretary Alberto del Rosario urged ASEAN "to consider reaching out to the international community to say to China that what it is doing is wrong—that it must stop its reclamation activities at once": Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the Government of the People's Republic of China's unilateral construc-

tion of artificial land formations in the disputed Spratly Islands;

(2) strongly urges all parties to maritime and territorial disputes in the region to respect the status quo, exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would undermine stability or complicate or escalate disputes, refrain from inhabiting or garrisoning presently uninhabited islands, reefs, shoals, and other features, and refrain from unilateral actions that cause permanent physical change to the marine environment in areas pending final delimitation;

(3) urges the Government of the People's Republic of China to clarify the meaning of its "nine dash line" claim and the maritime areas it claims within that space;

(4) further urges the Government of the People's Republic of China to clarify its intentions with respect to establishing "necessary military defense" on reclaimed features and condemns the militarization of disputed features;

(5) supports efforts by parties to maritime and territorial disputes to handle their differences in a constructive manner and pursue their claims through peaceful, diplomatic, and legitimate regional and international arbitration mechanisms;

(6) reaffirms the strong support of the United States for the member states of ASEAN as they seek to develop a code of conduct of parties in the South China Sea with the People's Republic of China, and urges China to enter into such negotiations in a serious manner;

(7) supports efforts to strengthen regional maritime domain awareness;

(8) supports efforts to strengthen maritime partner capacity, including through the sale and transfer of technology that promotes maritime domain awareness; and

(9) supports the continuation of operations by the United States Armed Forces in support of freedom of navigation rights in international waters and air space in the South China Sea.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 184—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT CONVERSION THERAPY, INCLUDING EFFORTS BY MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS TO CHANGE THE SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, OR GENDER EXPRESSION OF AN INDIVIDUAL, IS DANGEROUS AND HARMFUL AND SHOULD BE PROHIBITED FROM BEING PRACTICED ON MINORS

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. WARREN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. UDALL, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

#### S. RES. 184

Whereas being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or gender nonconforming is not a disorder, disease, illness, deficiency, or shortcoming;

Whereas the development of all children and adolescents into healthy and productive adults is a priority of the United States and

ending prejudice and injustice based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender nonconformity is a human rights issue;

Whereas the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Counseling Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, the American School Counselor Association, the National Association of School Psychologists, and the National Association of Social Workers, together representing more than 480,000 health and mental health professionals, have all taken the position that homosexuality is not a mental disorder and thus is not something that needs to be or can be “cured”;

Whereas the American Psychological Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the National Association of Social Workers, the American Counseling Association Governing Council, and the American Psychoanalytic Association have not found conversion therapy to be safe or effective;

Whereas several States have enacted or are considering legislation and other measures to prohibit conversion therapy in children and adolescents; and

Whereas enacted State legislation to prohibit conversion therapy in children and adolescents has been upheld as constitutional: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This resolution may be cited as the “Stop Harming Our Kids Resolution of 2015”.

#### SEC. 2. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING CONVERSION THERAPY DIRECTED AT MINORS.

(a) CONVERSION THERAPY DEFINED.—In this resolution, the term “conversion therapy”—

(1) means any practice by a licensed, certified, or registered mental health provider, health care provider, or counselor that seeks or purports to impose change of the sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression of an individual, including reducing or eliminating sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward an individual of the same gender and efforts to change behaviors, gender identity, or gender expression; and

(2) does not include counseling—

(A) that—

(i) provides acceptance, support, and understanding of an individual;

(ii) facilitates the coping, social support, and identity exploration and development of an individual;

(iii) provides developmentally appropriate counseling for an individual undergoing gender transition; or

(iv) provides sexual orientation- and gender identity-neutral interventions to prevent or address unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices; and

(B) that does not seek to change sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that conversion therapy directed at minors is discredited and ineffective, has no legitimate therapeutic purpose, and is dangerous and harmful.

(c) STATE ENCOURAGEMENT.—The Senate encourages each State to take steps to protect minors from efforts that promote or promise to change sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression based on the premise that being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or gender nonconforming is a mental illness or developmental disorder that can or should be cured.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 185—RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF MAY 2015 AS ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AND AS AN IMPORTANT TIME TO CELEBRATE THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS TO THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. REID of Nevada, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KIRK, Mr. HELLER, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BROWN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 185

Whereas the people of the United States join together each May to pay tribute to the contributions of generations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who have enriched the history of the United States;

Whereas the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States is inextricably tied to the story of the United States;

Whereas the Asian American and Pacific Islander community is an inherently diverse population, comprised of more than 45 distinct ethnicities and more than 100 language dialects;

Whereas, according to the Bureau of the Census, the Asian American population grew at a faster rate than any other racial or ethnic group in the United States during the last decade, surging nearly 46 percent between 2000 and 2010, a growth rate that is 4 times the rate of the total population of the United States;

Whereas, according to the 2010 decennial census, there are approximately 17,300,000 residents of the United States who identify themselves as Asian and approximately 1,200,000 residents of the United States who identify themselves as Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, making up approximately 5.5 percent and 0.4 percent, respectively, of the total population of the United States;

Whereas the month of May was selected for Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month because the first immigrants from Japan arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843, and the first transcontinental railroad was completed on May 10, 1869, with substantial contributions from immigrants from China;

Whereas section 102 of title 36, United States Code, officially designates May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month and requests that the President issue an annual proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities;

Whereas Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, such as Daniel K. Inouye, a Medal of Honor and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient who as President Pro Tempore of the Senate was the highest-ranking Asian American government official in United States history, Dalip Singh Saund, the first Asian American Congressman, Patsy T. Mink, the first woman of color and the first Asian American woman to be elected to Congress, Hiram L. Fong, the first Asian American Senator, Daniel K. Akaka, the first Senator of Native Hawaiian ancestry, Norman Y. Mineta, the first Asian American member of a presidential cabinet, Elaine L. Chao, the first Asian American woman member of a

presidential cabinet, and others have made significant contributions in both the Government and military of the United States;

Whereas the year 2015 marks several important milestones for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, including the—

(1) 50th anniversary of the passage of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-236), landmark legislation that reversed restrictive immigration policies against immigrants from Asia;

(2) 40th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War;

(3) 40th anniversary of the Southeast Asian diasporic communities in the United States;

(4) 30th anniversary of the mission aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery of Ellison S. Onizuka, the first Asian American in space; and

(5) 25th anniversary of the date of enactment of Public Law 105-225, signed by President George H. W. Bush, designating May to be Asian Pacific American Heritage Month;

Whereas the actions of the Hmong in Laos in support of the United States during the Vietnam War saved the lives of countless people of the United States;

Whereas as a result of Hmong support of the United States, the Hmong were forced to leave Laos when the new communist regime seized control of Laos;

Whereas May 14, 2015, marks the 40th anniversary of the forced exit from Laos of Hmong people, many of whom later resettled in the United States, following the withdrawal of United States troops from Vietnam;

Whereas, in 2015, the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, a bicameral caucus of Members of Congress advocating on behalf of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, is composed of 48 Members, including 13 Members of Asian or Pacific Islander descent;

Whereas in 2015, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are serving in State and territorial legislatures across the United States in record numbers, including the States of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and the territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

Whereas the number of Federal judges who are Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders doubled between 2001 and 2008 and more than tripled between 2009 and 2015, reflecting a commitment to diversity in the Federal judiciary that has resulted in the confirmations of high-caliber Asian American and Pacific Islander judicial nominees;

Whereas there remains much to be done to ensure that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have access to resources and a voice in the Government of the United States and continue to advance in the political landscape of the United States; and

Whereas celebrating Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month provides the people of the United States with an opportunity to recognize the achievements, contributions, and history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and to appreciate the challenges faced by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved,* That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the significance of May 2015 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month and as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United States; and